

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for generating a child timeline, comprising the steps of:

selecting a portion of a parent timeline having a first data item;
generating the child timeline based on the portion of the parent timeline, the child timeline having a second data item corresponding to the first data item; and
dynamically-linking the child timeline to the parent timeline such that when the first data item of the parent timeline is updatedmodified, the second data item of the child timeline is automatically updatedmodified to conform to the first data item, and when the second data item of the child timeline is modified, the first data item of the parent timeline is automatically modified to conform to the second data item, wherein both the parent and child timelines are linear.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of adding to the child timeline at least one data item in addition to the second data item from the portion of the parent timeline, and wherein when the at least one data item is modified, the portion of the parent timeline is not modified.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 2-1 wherein the ~~at least one~~first data item is associated with a ~~first location on the parent timeline and the first location is associated with a first time~~, the step of ~~adding to~~generating the child timeline comprising the step of adding the ~~at least one~~second data item to a location on the child timeline corresponding to the first time.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 3 wherein the at least one of the first data item and the second data item is selected from the group consisting of a milestone data item and a time interval data item.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of displaying through a graphical user interface ~~a~~an interrelationship between the parent timeline and the child timeline in response to generating the child timeline.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5 wherein the interrelationship is displayed by placing an icon on the portion of the parent timeline and by visually connecting the child timeline to the portion of the parent timeline.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of selecting the portion of the parent timeline comprises selecting the portion of the parent timeline in response to ~~by~~ placing an icon onto the parent timeline.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the portion of the parent timeline includes a first location and a second location, and wherein the step of generating a child timeline comprises establishing a linear timeline comprising a first end representing a time corresponding to ~~a~~the first location on the portion of the parent timeline and a second end corresponding to ~~another~~the second location on the portion of the parent timeline.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of dynamically-linking the child timeline to the parent timeline comprises the steps of:

associating the child timeline with the portion of the parent timeline; and

modifying the second data item of the child timeline in response to modifying the first data item of the portion of the parent timeline, wherein the modification to the second data item of the child timeline is the same as the modification to the first data item of the portion of the parent timeline.

10. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for modifying timeline information, wherein a first timeline having a first data item is dynamically-linked to

a second timeline having a second data item such that the second timeline is associated with a portion of the first timeline, comprising the steps of:

modifying the first data item of the first timeline;

determining if the modification of the first data item affects the first timeline at the portion of the first timeline that is associated with second timeline; and

if the modification of the first data item affects the first timeline at the portion of the first timeline associated with second timeline, then modifying the second data item of the second timeline in the same way as the first timeline to conform the second data item to the first data item, wherein both the first and second timelines are linear.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 10 ~~wherein the step of modifying the first timeline comprises~~further comprising:

adding a third data item from a group ~~comprising~~consisting of a milestone data item and a time interval data item to the portion of the first timeline; and

adding a fourth data item corresponding to the third data item to the second timeline in response to adding the third data item to the first timeline.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 10 wherein the first data item is associated with a location on the first timeline, and wherein the step of modifying the first data item ~~comprises changing a data item existing on the first timeline prior to the performance of the step of modifying the first timeline~~the location of the first data item on the first timeline.

13. (Currently Amended) A system for dynamically-linking a child timeline to a parent timeline comprising:

a drawing sheet module; and

a timeline module, logically coupled to the drawing sheet module, operable to select a portion of a parent timeline having a first data item in response to an action,

generate the child timeline having a second data item based on the portion of the parent timeline, and dynamically-link the child timeline to the parent timeline such that when the first data item of the parent timeline is updatedmodified, the second data item of the child timeline is automatically updatedmodified to conform to the first data item, and when the second data item is modified the first data item is automatically modified to conform to the second data item, wherein both the parent and child timelines are linear.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 13, wherein the timeline module is further operable to add to the child timeline at least one data item from the portion of the parent timeline in addition to the second data item, wherein when the at least one data item is modified, the parent time line is not modified.

15. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 13, wherein the timeline module is further operable to display through a graphical user interface the interrelationship between the parent timeline and the child timeline in response to generating the child timeline.

16. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 13, wherein the ~~timeline module is further operable to modify a first timeline, wherein the first timeline is dynamically-linked to a second timeline such that the second timeline is associated with a portion of the first timeline, determine if the modification affects the first timeline at the portion of the first timeline associated with second timeline, and, if the modification affects the first timeline at the portion of the first timeline associated with second timeline, then modify the second timeline in the same way as the first timeline~~first data item is selected from a group consisting of a milestone data item and a time interval data item.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage device storing a set of computer-executable instructions implementing a method for a computer-implemented method for generating a child timeline, comprising the steps of:

selecting a portion of a parent timeline, the portion having a first data item;

generating the child timeline based on the portion of the parent timeline, wherein the child timeline comprises at least one data item a second data item corresponding to the first data item from the portion of the parent timeline; and

dynamically-linking the child timeline to the parent timeline such that when the first data item of the parent timeline is updatedmodified, the second data item of the child timeline is automatically updatedmodified to conform to the first data item, and when the second data item is modified, the first data item is automatically modified to conform to the second data item, wherein both the parent and child timelines are linear.

18. (Previously Presented) The storage device of Claim 17 further comprising the step of displaying through a graphical user interface the interrelationship between the parent timeline and the child timeline in response to generating the child timeline.

19. (Currently Amended) The storage device of Claim 17 wherein the step of selecting the portion of the parent timeline comprises selecting the portion of the parent timeline ~~in response to~~ by placing an icon onto the parent timeline.

20. (Currently Amended) The storage device of Claim 17 wherein the portion of the parent timeline includes a first location and a second location, and wherein the step of generating a child timeline comprises establishing a timeline comprising a first end representing a time corresponding to ~~a location~~ the first location on the portion of the parent timeline and a second end corresponding to ~~another~~ the second location on the portion of the parent timeline.

21. (Currently Amended) The storage device of Claim 17 wherein ~~the step of dynamically linking the child timeline to the parent timeline comprises the steps of~~ the portion of the first timeline is a first portion, the steps further comprise:

associating the child timeline with ~~the~~ a second portion of the parent timeline different than the first portion, the second portion having a third data item;

and

removing the second data item from the child timeline; and

~~modifying the child timeline in response to modifying the portion of the parent timeline, wherein the modification to the child timeline is the same as the modification to the portion of the parent timeline~~ adding a fourth data item to the child timeline, the fourth data item corresponding to the third data item such that when the third data item is modified, the fourth data item is automatically modified to conform to the third data item.

22. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage device storing a set of computer-executable instructions implementing a computer-implemented method for modifying timeline information, wherein the first timeline is dynamically-linked to a second timeline having a second data item such that the second timeline is associated with a portion of the first timeline having a first data item, comprising the steps of:

modifying the first timeline;

determining if the modification affects the first timeline at the portion of the first timeline associated with second timeline by monitoring the first data item; and

if the modification affects the first timeline at the portion of the first timeline associated with second timeline due to changes to the first data item, then modifying the second data item of the second timeline in the same way as the first data item of the first timeline;

modifying the second timeline by adding a third data item to the second timeline in addition to the second data item without updating the first timeline;

modifying the second data item of the second timeline; and

automatically modifying the first data item of the first timeline to conform to the second data item, wherein both the first and second timelines are linear.